

An executive summary of the final report of work done on the minor research project of Juby Thomas entitled **“Status of Women Journalists in Malayalam Media Organizations”** sanctioned by UGC vide sanction letter no. *MRP(H)-0820/13-14/KAMA002/UGC-SWRO, 23/03/2014.*

Executive Summary

In the year 2004 the National Commission for Women (NCW), released a report on Status of Women Journalists in India' by providing a picture of women journalists and their working conditions in India. The report says many women journalists (even from established newspapers) work as daily wage labour, without an appointment letter, signing a muster roll at the end of the month to get Rs 1,500-3000. But the present study identifies that situations have improved in the state of Kerala. Most of the women (80%) who were part of the study work as permanent employees and only 20 per cent of them work on temporary and contract basis.

A change in the conventional feelings that women are cornered towards soft news/ issues also witnessed a slight change. 50 per cent of the women who work in Malayalam media organizations got few opportunities to cover political and social issues unlike the previous years. Around 26.7 per cent engage themselves into features and metro beats. 3.3 percent engage into television news presentation, anchoring news programs. 16.7 per cent engage in other activities like editing proof reading and page layout.

Low payment, frequent transfers, societies attitude towards women journalists, night shift and various security issues are some of the major areas of concern. Women getting into decision making or managerial level is still a gray area. There are lot of women who get into Malayalam journalism industry, unfortunately perseverance of these women in the industry is a challenge. Even though there are several women who take up the profession in the beginning (63%) there were only 23.3 percent who still continues with the profession to at least 9 years.

More than three hundred applicants appeared for a recent job opening for trainee journalists with two leading television channels for a vacancy of 3-5 and it is a hint towards the growth of unemployment in the sector.

Increased number of divorces among the women journalists is alarming and 50 per cent of the women journalists who were part of the study are unmarried. There are various rules and regulations under labor laws and other legislations which ensures a non discriminatory and comfortable work atmosphere for women. However, the government agencies do not monitor the proper implementation of such rules and regulations.

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